(a) whether any talk was held on Indo-Pak relations during Prime Minister's recent visit to America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have put its stand before America regarding recent disclosure of the fact that Lashkar-e-Taiyaba was involved in recent attack on Ayodhya; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The issue of India-Pakistan relations did feature in discussions during Prime Minister's recent visit to the United States.

(b) Prime Minister reiterated his commitment to the on-going peace dialogue but cautioned that a permanent end to cross-border terrorism was essential for the dialogue to progress.

(c) and (d) Recent developments regarding terrorists incidents in different parts of the world, including India, were covered. The Joint Statement issued after the talks with President Bush applauded the active and vigorous counter terrorism cooperation between the two countries. It recognised that terrorism is a global scourge and one that India and United States will fight everywhere. It also committed the two nations to the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism.

Use of missions to project India's image abroad

1170. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been received to make use of the country's missions abroad to market the country as an economic power and a knowledge society with a rich cultural heritage;

(b) if so, whether any directions have been issued to missions abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the contributions so far made by the missions in this direction other than travel related issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Economic diplomacy is an

integral part of India's foreign policy. Our Missions have been promoting India's capabilities in the IT and other knowledge sectors, while highlighting our cultural strengths. Guidelines are issued by the Ministry from time to time to our Missions to project the image of India as a major emerging economic power and an attractive destination for business and foreign direct investment.

(d) With the support of the Ministry, the Missions are playing a proactive role in promoting our exports and in highlighting investment opportunities in India by measures such as providing market information, guiding business delegations, organizing Buyer-Seller Meets and assisting participation in trade fairs. The Missions also help organize trade promotion efforts and seminars on investment opportunities in India.

Assistance to Iraq in drafting constitution

†1171. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered help in drafting Iraq's Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Iraq's Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has offered to help by arranging interactions with Indian constitutional experts in India and provision of literature and expert advice, which has been appreciated by the Government of Iraq.

Undemarcated border between India and Bangladesh

1172. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 6.5 kms. of border between India and Bangladesh has remained undemarcated till now;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the hurdles in demarcation of above border; and

(d) the steps being taken to resolve the issue?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.